

region and the state as a whole. It is my wish that we as a community unite to preserve San Antonio's first skyline and the largest cluster of Spanish missions in the United States. By preserving our past, we help build our future.

H.R. 1829

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, while H.R. 1829 has been placed on the Union Calendar and I can no longer remove my name as a co-sponsor of the legislation, I would like to indicate that I am no longer supportive of the bill.

While I do support providing small businesses greater access to government contracts, removing the Federal Prison Industries (FPI) mandatory source preference would result in countless inmate jobs being lost. Idle prisoners increase the likelihood of prison unrest and eliminating the program would remove the opportunity for inmates to learn vital job skills. These jobs teach the prisoners a trade that they can use after they reenter the workforce. The program is so popular that there currently are not enough jobs to fill all the requests for prison employment. Money earned by the prisoners is often used to make child support payments and pay restitution.

Mr. Speaker, under current law, federal agencies can purchase products from the private sector if their prices are lower than FPI. Doing away with FPI will cost local prison jobs and only present the possibility of creating additional domestic manufacturing jobs elsewhere.

RECOGNIZING THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 43d anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On this important day, I join the Greek Cypriots in celebrating their freedom from Great Britain in 1960.

Over 43 years, the Republic of Cyprus has overcome hardships to become a steadfast and committed democracy on the threshold of joining the European Union in 2004. Unfortunately, since a Turkish invasion in 1974, the island remains divided between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots despite attempts by the United Nations for a reunification settlement. Shortly after Cyprus agreed to join the European Union, the Turkish Cypriot authorities opened the borders and allowed Cypriots to cross over the line for the first time in 30 years. This past April was the first time that Cypriots from either side were able to travel through the 120-mile barrier, which continues to be guarded by U.N. peacekeeping forces.

A divided Cyprus also has the potential of blocking Turkey's bid to join the European

Union, since its occupation of the northern part of Cyprus is illegal under international law. I urge the Turkish government to take steps toward uniting Cyprus and also put pressure on Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, who has fallen out of line with the wishes of his people. The majority of Turkish Cypriots want to have the equality and prosperity of their neighbors.

As the Republic of Cyprus has stood by the United States during its war on terrorism, we must continue to support negotiations so that all sides benefit from reunification. There is still potential for all of Cyprus to join the EU with continued support from the European Union and the United Nations. It may be a long road to mend the strains between Turkey and Greece, but reuniting Cyprus is an important step in the right direction.

Again, I celebrate this important day for the Republic of Cyprus.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SPECIAL ORDERS ON IRAQ

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the distinguished chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for holding these special orders.

Over 300 Americans have died in Iraq. Over 1200 have been wounded. And we're spending a billion a week to finance this quagmire.

Now, Congress is being asked to approve another \$87 billion to fund the Administration's war. That brings up the total to \$166 billion, and there's no end in sight—no end to the deaths, no end to the bills, and no end to the war.

That \$87 billion is the latest installment on the President's foreign policy doctrine of preemption.

We went to war under this doctrine: the President told the American people, Congress, and the world that we had to go to war because Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear weapons program, posed an imminent danger to us.

Well, we haven't found the weapons yet, so now the Administration is changing the mission: now Iraq isn't about weapons of mass destruction or regime change, now it's terrorism.

The American people want to know how this \$166 billion is being spent, what our exit strategy is, and just how much we are going to have to pay to build Iraqi houses, connect Iraqi electrical grids, and construct Iraqi schools.

It's not that we begrudge the needs of the Iraqi people—it's just that we also see dire needs here at home.

We're not isolationists—it's in our national interest to help create stability in Iraq and it's a moral imperative to repair the damage our bombs did, but there has to be a vision of how to get us out.

We must leave an Iraq that is stable and secure, but we must leave.

And we all need to understand that this war against Iraq is not an isolated act but part of the Doctrine of Preemption that could also lead us to war against North Korea, Iran, Syria, or almost anyone else.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would recognize this war. As he warned us, "In the wasteland of war," he said, "The expenditure of resources knows no restraints."

Dr. King knew that war could be a bottomless pit, into which this great nation could pour all of its resources, all of its young people, and never come out safer or stronger.

We have to stop this. That is our call to arms.

Because if we don't stop them, this \$87 billion bill will be followed by more and more installment payments, and those 304 Americans who have died in Iraq will be followed by far too many more young men and women.

Let's find our way out of this wasteland.

HONORING CYPRUS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the many Cypriot Americans in New Jersey I rise today to honor the 43d anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus became an independent Republic in 1960 after 80 years of British colonial rule and hundreds of years under the yoke of the Ottoman Empire. Despite a series of tragic events during the past four decades, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains committed to the core principles enshrined in the Constitution of Cyprus guaranteeing the basic rights and freedoms of the people of Cyprus—Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Cypriots from all ethnic and religious communities.

This year, Cyprus's Independence Day arrives at a time of great hope for all the people of Cyprus. Since the last celebration of Cyprus Independence Day, Cyprus has experienced events of major historic import—most notably the signing of the Treaty of Accession to the European Union in April of this year. Cyprus is now on target to join the EU in May 2004 and that is no small achievement for a nation that has endured such a long list of tragedies.

As in past years, however, the continued de facto division of the island nation clouds the commemoration of its Independence Day. Thirty-seven percent of the Republic's territory continues to be occupied by Turkish military forces in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and international law.

While the Cyprus problem continues to elude a final, just, and peaceful solution, never before in the 29 years since Turkish forces split the island in two, have Cypriots been so close to a settlement. And yet they are so far away. The last year has been fraught with opportunities lost—many of us here in Congress thought that the Copenhagen Summit last winter offered a unique opportunity for Greek and Turkish Cypriots to finally resolve their differences. A new Turkish leadership in Ankara looked poised to make history and then didn't.

We had hope. The plan put forth by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan continued to gain momentum. Thousands of Turkish Cypriots were protesting in the streets against their leader Rauf Denktaş calling on him to accept the Annan plan. There was anticipation that referenda would occur this past spring and finally liberate Cypriots from the oppressive division of their island.

And then as has often happened in the history of Cyprus an opportunity was lost. Mr. Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, would not take the Annan plan to his people for a referendum. Denktash abandoned the Annan plan. And a frustrated U.N. closed up shop and went home.

And then something wonderful happened. Mr. Denktash unilaterally opened up the borders. Some on Cyprus and in Congress have looked upon this action with suspicion, but I don't think anyone can dispute that the results have been overwhelming positive for the Cypriot people. There are a lot of experts with different opinions on why Mr. Denktash did what he did, but one thing is for certain. Cypriots have begun talking to Cypriots again. An artificial line has been eliminated and I don't think there's any turning back.

One of my constituents, Theo Hadjitheodosiou from Holmdale, New Jersey, was born in Cyprus. He is Greek Cypriot and recently returned to Cyprus to cross the Green Line to see one of the homes where some of his family used to live before the 1974 invasion. He said it was nice to go, but that he remained saddened by the continued occupation by Turkish forces.

Can you imagine having to show your passport to go from Trenton to Pennsylvania? That's what it's like. The division has been particularly hard on the Turkish Cypriots, he said. Like many other Cypriots, Theo sees the opening of the border as only a first step on the road toward a settlement.

I am hopeful that the renewed human contact between Greek and Turkish Cypriots will accelerate the political process. Eventually, trust will be rebuilt among people. And then the enemies of peace will have no choice but to let go of their stubborn, outdated positions to make way for a new generation that will embrace a peaceful future—a future of one Cyprus, made up of Turkish and Greek Cypriots—in which all citizens are not only Cypriot, but more importantly, European.

I will continue to do what I can in Congress to support a Cyprus solution based on the Annan plan. I will continue to urge the Bush administration to convince the Turks in Ankara that a solution in Cyprus will provide the gateway to Turkey's own goals of a European future. As elections approach in the Turkish-occupied area, I will ask the administration to make it clear to Ankara not to interfere. Polls recently conducted on Cyprus indicate that if free and fair elections were held in the North, the Turkish Cypriots would elect a new, pro-settlement leadership. A new Turkish Cypriot leadership that represents the aspirations of a majority of Turkish Cypriots would be a welcome development and would probably lead to the renewal of settlement negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today on Cyprus Independence Day to celebrate the progress that Cyprus continues to make as an incoming member state of the European Union, as a vibrant democracy with a robust market economy, and as an increasingly important partner of the United States. And I hope, as I do each year, that the people of Cyprus will soon enjoy the benefits of a peaceful settlement.

HURRICANE ISABEL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last month, our region was subjected to nature's unbridled wrath. And, despite the advances in technology that gave us fair warning that a storm of this magnitude was approaching, there was little anyone could do to escape the destruction Isabel left in her wake. The five counties I represent all suffered enormous damage, families were displaced and without power for days, homes and businesses were demolished, and our natural resources were destroyed by the strength of the winds and rain that accompanied this vicious hurricane.

Our region responded quickly and directed the full force of its resources to assist residents and business owners with their recovery efforts. I am extremely grateful to our first responders, local and state officials, and disaster assistance teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Army Corps of Engineers, law enforcement officials and community volunteers who I saw throughout our communities when I visited parts of St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, and Calvert counties in the week following the storm.

On Thursday, September 25 I joined Senators SARBANES and MIKULSKI, as well as my colleagues in the Maryland Congressional Delegation, to hear from representatives from several federal and State of Maryland agencies on relief efforts underway to help the citizens of Maryland and small businesses throughout the State. We were informed that the counties were completing their Preliminary Damage Assessments which would be submitted to MEMA and FEMA so that funds could be designated to assist with the clean-up and recovery.

Thus far, Maryland has qualified for federal assistance with debris removal and emergency protective services. If the damage in other areas meets the threshold for disasters, Maryland could become eligible for more categories of federal assistance, including repair of roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities and parks.

Recovering from this storm will be a long process, and we all will face challenges along the way. I will continue to work with elected officials and residents throughout the 5th District of Maryland to provide any resources I can to help in this recovery process.

GROUPS RALLY TO SUPPORT YOUTH WORKER PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, 2003 I introduced H.R. 3139, the Youth Worker Protection Act, (YWPA). This bill will make necessary common sense changes to America's child labor laws, which have not been significantly amended since their creation nearly 70 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) an average of 230,000 teenagers are injured on the job each year and even more shocking is the fact that an average of 67 teen workers die each year from injuries sustained while on the job. That means a teen worker dies from work related injuries in this country every five days.

The YWPA, addresses two major aspects of child labor: the deaths and serious injuries suffered by our young workers and the negative impact which working excessive hours during school can have on a child's education. I am honored to have the support of numerous organizations, including; the National Consumers League, the National Education Association (NEA), United Methodist Women, the International Initiative to End Child Labor, and Youth Advocate Program International. Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary organizations have dedicated themselves to advocating an end to exploitive child labor and I request that their letters be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

YOUTH ADVOCATE
PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: Youth Advocate Program International would like to voice its strong support for the Youth Worker Protection Act and urge you to present this act to Congress at your earliest convenience.

YAP International believes that everyone, including children, can contribute to society through work. We believe job-skill training should be provided to young people and that youth should experience the pride that comes from work well done. We understand that in some situations children must work to meet their own survival needs and those of their family. However, gaining an education should be a youth's primary job and we support the Youth Worker Protection Act for formally recognizing and promoting this principle.

We support monitoring of child labor practices to ensure that work does not compromise the child's overall health, well-being, and access to free, compulsory and meaningful education. We strongly urge that monitoring efforts not only include the formal sector—work in a factory or business setting—but also work in the informal sector, including domestic workers, agricultural workers, street vendors, and heads of households/caregivers.

Youth Advocate Program International commends your leadership to update and strengthen child labor laws in the United States, and we urge you to continue supporting the Youth Worker Protection Act. Feel free to contact our office if we can provide any assistance to you in further promoting the rights of children. Thank you for your time and continued advocacy on behalf of youth worldwide.

In Service to Youth,

PATRICK J. SCHOOF,
Director.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC.

Representative TOM LANTOS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 2.7 million members, we would like to express our support for the Youth Worker Protection Act.